



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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(208) 373-0502

Brad Little, Governor
Jess Byrne, Director

July 26, 2021

Mr. Dan Larsen
601 W 1700 S Bldg B
Logan, Utah 84321

Subject: Idaho §401 Water Quality Certification for the Crow Creek Canal Re-route

Dear Mr. Larsen:

On May 7, 2021, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) received a request for a §401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) from the Army Corps of Engineers concerning the proposed Crow Creek Re-route project.

DEQ drafted a WQC and began a public comment period on June 22 through July 13, 2021. DEQ received no comments and finalized the WQC. Enclosed, please find DEQ's final WQC.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 208.528.2650 or troy.saffle@deq.idaho.gov with questions or concerns about the WQC process and final permit.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. Saffle", is positioned below the "Sincerely," text.

Troy Saffle
Regional WQ Manager
Idaho Falls Regional Office

enclosure

c: William Schrader, ACOE
Beth Spelsberg, DEQ (EDMS reference)



Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Final § 401 Water Quality Certification

July 26, 2021

Project Name: Crow Creek Canal Re-Route

Permit Number (if applicable): NWW-2020-00136

Applicant/Authorized Agent: Dan Larsen / Kartcher Land Management

Project Location: Crow Creek Canal / 43.524069, -111.978058

Receiving Water Body: Crow Creek

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 401(a)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), as amended; 33 U.S.C. Section 1341(a)(1); and Idaho Code §§ 39-101 et seq. and 39-3601 et seq., the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has authority to review activities receiving Section 404 dredge and fill permits and issue water quality certification decisions.

Based upon its review of the certification request, received on 5/11/2021, DEQ certifies that if the permittee complies with the terms and conditions imposed by the permit and the conditions set forth in this water quality certification, then it is reasonable for DEQ to conclude that the activity will comply with water quality requirements, including applicable requirements of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act, the Idaho Water Quality Standards (WQS), IDAPA 58.01.02, and other appropriate water quality requirements of state law.

This certification does not constitute authorization of the permitted activities by any other state or federal agency or private person or entity. This certification does not excuse the permit holder from the obligation to obtain any other necessary approvals, authorizations or permits.

1 Project Description

As part of the development of Crow Creek Estates the developer wishes to re-route and pipe Crow Creek as it passes through the property. Crow Creek in its current form is an irrigation diversion of Sand Creek and is managed by the Progressive Irrigation Company. Several sections of Crow Creek have previously been piped as it passes through more developed areas.

As part of the development of Crow Creek Estates the developer wishes to re-route and pipe Crow Creek as it passes through the property. Crow Creek in its current form is an irrigation

diversion of Sand Creek and is managed by the Progressive Irrigation Company. The flows from Crow creek travel west along East Iona Road inside a 48" pipe and empty into an earthen ditch just south of the intersection of Tebbin Road and Pinnacle Drive. The channel then heads south until connecting with a 48" pipe which allows the flows pass under the Eastern Idaho Railroad tracks.

Using a variety of heavy equipment a contractor will install junction boxes and approximately 1,954 linear feet of 48" ADS pipe from the northern pipe to the southern pipe. The pipe will actually be outside the current stream channel and after installation and the existing channel will be filled in.

2 Antidegradation Review

As part of its water quality standards program, Idaho has an antidegradation policy providing three levels of protection to water bodies in Idaho (IDAPA 58.01.02.051). DEQ has adopted regulations to implement the antidegradation policy (IDAPA 58.01.02.052).

Tier I Protection. The first level of protection applies to all water bodies subject to Clean Water Act jurisdiction and ensures that existing uses of a water body and the level of water quality necessary to protect those existing uses will be maintained and protected (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.01; 58.01.02.052.01). Additionally, a Tier I review is performed for all new or reissued permits or licenses (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.07).

Tier II Protection. The second level of protection applies to those water bodies considered high quality and ensures that no lowering of water quality will be allowed unless deemed necessary to accommodate important economic or social development (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.02; 58.01.02.052.08).

Tier III Protection. The third level of protection applies to water bodies that have been designated outstanding resource waters and requires that activities not cause a lowering of water quality (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.03; 58.01.02.052.09).

DEQ employs a water-body-by-water-body approach to implementing Idaho's antidegradation policy. This approach means that any water body fully supporting its beneficial uses will be considered high quality (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.05.a). Any water body not fully supporting its beneficial uses will be provided Tier I protection for that use, unless specific circumstances warranting Tier II protection are met (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.05.c). The most recent federally approved Integrated Report and supporting data are used to determine support status and the tier of protection (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.05).

2.1 Pollutants of Concern

The pollutant(s) of concern for this project is sediment. As part of the Section 401 water quality certification, DEQ is requiring the applicant to comply with various conditions to protect water quality and to meet Idaho WQS, including the water quality criteria applicable to this pollutant.

2.2 Receiving Water Body Level of Protection

This project is located on Crow Creek within the American Falls Subbasin assessment unit (AU) Crow Creek , between river mile 791 to American Falls Reservoir. (Tributaries to Snake River ID17040206SK022_02). This AU has the following designated beneficial uses: cold water aquatic life and salmonid spawning. In addition to these uses, all waters of the state are protected for agricultural and industrial water supply, wildlife habitat, and aesthetics (IDAPA 58.01.02.100).]

The only pollutant of concern associated with this project is sediment. However, sediment is not relevant to recreational uses since aquatic life is the more sensitive use and sediment will be expected to cause impairments to aquatic life at concentrations well below what would be necessary to cause recreational use impairment; it is therefore unnecessary for DEQ to conduct a Tier II analysis (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.06).]

2.3 Protection and Maintenance of Existing Uses (Tier I Protection)

A Tier I review is performed for all new or reissued permits or licenses, applies to all waters subject to the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act, and requires demonstration that existing uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect existing uses shall be maintained and protected. The numeric and narrative criteria in the WQS are set at levels that ensure protection of existing and designated beneficial uses.

Water bodies not supporting existing or designated beneficial uses must be identified as water quality limited, and a total maximum daily load (TMDL) must be prepared for those pollutants causing impairment. Once a TMDL is developed, discharges of causative pollutants shall be consistent with the allocations in the TMDL (IDAPA 58.01.02.055.05). Prior to the development of the TMDL, the WQS require the application of the antidegradation policy and implementation provisions to maintain and protect uses (IDAPA 58.01.02.055.04).

During the construction phase, the applicant will implement, install, maintain, monitor, and adaptively manage best management practices (BMPs) directed toward reducing erosion and minimizing turbidity levels in receiving water bodies downstream of the project. In addition, permanent erosion and sediment controls will be implemented, which will minimize or prevent future sediment contributions from the project area. As long as the project is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the project plans, federal permit, and conditions of this certification, then it is reasonable for DEQ to conclude that the project will comply with the state's numeric and narrative criteria. These criteria are set at levels that protect and maintain existing and designated beneficial uses. In addition, the project will be consistent with the *American Falls Subbasin TMDL*. Construction will occur within a dry channel, preventing the mobilization of sediment or associated phosphorus downstream.

There is no available information indicating the presence of any existing beneficial uses aside from those that are already designated and discussed above; therefore, the permit ensures that the level of water quality necessary to protect both existing and designated uses is maintained

and protected in compliance with the Tier I provisions of Idaho's WQS (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.01 and 58.01.02.052.07).

3 Conditions Necessary to Ensure Compliance with Water Quality Standards or Other Appropriate Water Quality Requirements of State Law

The following conditions are necessary to ensure *Crow Creek Canal re-route* complies with Idaho water quality standards and other appropriate water quality requirements of State law applicable to Crow Creek.

3.1 General Conditions

This certification is based on the certification request submitted by the Karthcer Land Development on 5/11/2021 and is conditioned upon the requirement that any modification (e.g., change in work windows, etc.) of the permitted activity shall first be provided to DEQ for review to determine compliance with Idaho WQS and to provide additional certification pursuant to Section 401. Such modifications may not be implemented until DEQ has determined whether additional certification is necessary.

Because DEQ is certifying only the activity described in the certification request, this condition is necessary to ensure that discharges under circumstances that differ from those described in the certification request will comply with 33 U.S.C. § 1341, 40 CFR Part 121, and other applicable water quality requirements, including without limitation 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a), Idaho Code § 39-108, IDAPA 58.01.02.051, IDAPA 58.01.02.052, IDAPA 58.01.02.080, IDAPA 58.01.02.200, IDAPA 58.01.02.210, IDAPA 58.01.02.250, IDAPA 58.01.02.251, IDAPA 58.01.02.252, IDAPA 58.01.02.253, and IDAPA 58.01.02.400.

1. DEQ reserves the right to modify, amend, or revoke this certification if DEQ determines that, due to changes in relevant circumstances—including without limitation, changes in project activities, the characteristics of the receiving water bodies, or state WQS—there is no longer reasonable assurance of compliance with WQS or other appropriate requirements of state law.

Because DEQ is certifying only the activity described in the certification request based on information available at the time of certification, this condition is necessary to ensure that discharges from activities not described in the certification request, or where there has been a change in the characteristics of or WQS applicable to the receiving water body, will comply with 33 U.S.C. § 1341, 40 CFR Part 121, and other applicable water quality requirements, including without limitation 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a), Idaho Code § 39-108, IDAPA 58.01.02.051, IDAPA 58.01.02.052, IDAPA 58.01.02.080, IDAPA 58.01.02.200, IDAPA 58.01.02.210, IDAPA 58.01.02.250, IDAPA 58.01.02.251, IDAPA 58.01.02.252, IDAPA 58.01.02.253, and IDAPA 58.01.02.400.

2. If ownership of the project changes, the certification holder shall notify DEQ, in writing, upon transferring this ownership or responsibility for compliance with these conditions to another person or party. The new owner/operator shall request, in writing, the transfer of this water quality certification to his/her name.

This condition is necessary to ensure that, in the event of an ownership change, DEQ has the minimum information to support ongoing compliance with 33 U.S.C. § 1341, 40 CFR Part 121, this water quality certification, and other applicable water quality requirements, including without limitation Idaho Code § 39-108, IDAPA 58.01.02.080, and IDAPA 58.01.02.400.

3. A copy of this certification must be kept on the job site and readily available for review by any contractor working on the project and any federal, state, or local government personnel.

This condition is necessary to ensure all responsible parties, including onsite contractors, are aware of and comply with this water quality certification and other applicable water quality requirements, including without limitation Idaho Code § 39-108, IDAPA 58.01.02.080, and IDAPA 58.01.02.400.

4. The applicant is responsible for all work done by contractors and must ensure the contractors are informed of and follow all the conditions described in this certification and the federal permit.

This condition is necessary to ensure all responsible parties, including onsite contractors, comply with this water quality certification and applicable water quality requirements, including without limitation Idaho Code § 39-108, IDAPA 58.01.02.080, and IDAPA 58.01.02.400.

5. If this project disturbs more than 1 acre and there is potential for discharge of stormwater to waters of the state, coverage under the IPDES Stormwater Construction General permit is required.

This condition is necessary to ensure that work authorized under the federal permit complies with water quality requirements prohibiting unauthorized stormwater discharges, including without limitation 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a), 33 U.S.C. § 1342(p), IDAPA 58.01.02.080, and IDAPA 58.01.02.400.

4 Required Notification

The permittee must notify the Idaho Falls Regional Office when authorized work begins.

5 Right to Appeal Final Certification

The final Section 401 Water Quality Certification may be appealed by submitting a petition to initiate a contested case, pursuant to Idaho Code § 39-107(5) and the "Rules of Administrative

Procedure before the Board of Environmental Quality" (IDAPA 58.01.23), within 35 days of the date of the final certification.

Questions or comments regarding the actions taken in this certification should be directed to Troy Saffle, Idaho Falls Regional Office, 208.528.2650 or troy.saffle@deq.idaho.gov.



Eric Neher

Regional Administrator

Idaho Falls Regional Office